

Melbourne Scholars Program University of Melbourne, Australia

Deadline date: January 25, 3pm

Email all materials including transcript to: SAapplications@caltech.edu & have references emailed to: SAreferences@caltech.edu

Please read the following pages carefully as this information is essential for completing an application. You will find most of your questions answered.

Introduction and General Information

Caltech sophomores and juniors can apply to participate in the Melbourne Scholars Program. Students can only study abroad at the University of Melbourne in the Fall Term of their junior or senior year. Students must be nominated by Caltech and cannot apply directly to the University of Melbourne. The University of Melbourne has a strict 3.0 GPA requirement. As with all Caltech study abroad programs, students take courses for Caltech credit and can often find courses that fulfill option requirements.

Term dates for Fall 2026 (Semester 2) are July 28 – October 20, students arrive before July 11 for the mandatory orientation.

https://www.unimelb.edu.au/dates?queries_year_fquery=next_year

Caltech students are designated as *Study Abroad Students* at Melbourne and not as *Exchange Students* for the application process. Note that throughout the University of Melbourne website, Study Abroad and Exchange Students are referred to as *SAEX Students*, but when a status choice is involved, always select *Study Abroad*. For general information about studying abroad at Melbourne, go to the Melbourne Global Mobility website: <http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/inbound>.

NOTE WELL: students must first complete the Caltech Melbourne Scholars Program application and cannot apply directly to the University of Melbourne, as a nomination from Caltech is required.

Location, History and Student Body

The University of Melbourne is the top university in Australia and is located in a busy and exciting metropolis. Melbourne boasts great cultural activities, a beautiful landscape right on Port Phillip and is the Australian base for both Cricket and Australian football. Plus, Melbourne is a great launching point for trips deeper into Australia -- there is a one week break at the end of September that allows for travel, and the semester ends in early December, which is the start of the Australian summer. For more information on the city of Melbourne, visit: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

The City of Melbourne has a number of universities and is very much a "college town" with student-oriented nightlife activities, museums, restaurants and a great public transport system to get around the city. The university has an active Student Union, joined by most students. To get involved in University activities, clubs, and to get discounts around town, students can join the Student Union. It costs \$49 AU for one semester, a worthwhile investment! Most clubs also have membership fees. If there is something you have a serious interest in, this is a great way to meet people with similar interests and get involved. More info: <https://mbs.unimelb.edu.au/career/your-community/clubs-and-societies>

Melbourne is in the Australian state of Victoria on the southeastern shore of the continent. It is the second largest city in Australia after Sydney with a population of about 4 million – 44,000 of whom attend the University of Melbourne. Due to it being in the southern hemisphere, the summer season is December thru February. The school year, broken into two semesters, runs from March-November. **Caltech students in the Melbourne Scholars Program would attend during Semester 2 (July-November), which corresponds to Caltech's Fall Term.** There are no classes in the month of December, so students could travel before coming back to Caltech for the winter term.

Non-Teaching Period: At the end of September/early October, there is a Non-Teaching Period of 1 weeks when there are no scheduled classes. This period is akin to a reading period and exists to allow students to do papers, reading, finalize projects, or do problems sets that students might not have had time to complete during the first 8 weeks of teaching. The purpose of this week is academic. Students may not cut classes such as review sessions or "make-up" lectures, etc. that are scheduled by professors in order to travel. However, students who have managed their time well during the early part of the semester and are on pace or ahead on their work may be able to use some of this time for travel. Students wishing to do this should notify the Study Abroad Director at least two weeks prior to the NonTeaching Period and will need to offer an explanation of how the travel will fit into their coursework requirements.

While studying abroad at Melbourne at any time, e.g., the reading period, it is not recommended that students return home due to the travel time and adjusting back to the time difference. After the reading period, there are 3 more weeks of teaching, then an examination period. Most exams should be completed by the beginning of December, usually by the first full week. Some students will complete exams in November.

Mandatory Orientation

There is a required orientation before the start of the term. This orientation, including the SAEX (Study Abroad and Exchange) enrollment day, typically occurs in mid/late July. Classes begin the week after that.

There is an *optional orientation*, called the Melbourne Welcome, with tours of the city and activities before the beginning of the official orientation and term. Students stay in the residential colleges for this time. This Welcome Program is not required of study abroad students but is an option for students to get to know the city and meet people. Students must apply for the program and pay out of pocket (about US \$500) for this service.

Room and Board

Students live at RMIT Village (<http://www.rmitvillageom.com.au/index.php>), a housing complex for students from the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. It is dormitory-style student housing but is not owned by the University of Melbourne. RMIT Village has been set up along the model of a non-religious college and offers a tremendous range of support services, activities, and a pool! It is about a 10-minute walk to campus. Students live in a double room with a shared bathroom and kitchenette. There is a room divider that provides privacy, as well as a balcony overlooking the courtyard. Students cook for themselves, as there is no dining hall or board plan. There are ample facilities including a pool, gym, computer lab, study room, and lots of activities. There is a housing supplement due to the longer term and high Melbourne rent, plus students will need some

additional funds for food, as there is no board plan. More information on Melbourne Long Term Housing can be found here: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/accommodation> .

Approximately 1/3 of Melbourne students live in a college system similar to Oxford, Cambridge, and Harvard. Many are affiliated with a religious organization. However due to a range of reasons **Caltech visiting students are not allowed to live in a residential college. No exceptions are made.**

Caltech students are charged standard Caltech tuition, room and board fees for their term abroad. Students must remit standard room, board, fees, and tuition to Caltech by the regular billing due date. Students are responsible for covering the cost of their visa, which is in the \$500-600 range.

Due to higher room costs and the longer term, there is a supplemental charge to Caltech room and tuition charges. This charge varies each year based on Melbourne and Caltech fees and the exchange rate. Students on financial aid are eligible for additional funding to cover these costs depending on their individual situation. Because of the additional costs, we encourage all students to make an official financial aid application by the priority deadline.

Academic Program Overview

The Melbourne Model: The Melbourne Model comprises a 3-year undergraduate degree followed by an intensive 2-year masters degree or 3-year doctoral program. There are 6 "New Generation Undergraduate Degree" designations: Bachelor of Arts, Biomedicine, Commerce, Environments, Music and Science. There are 87 subjects within these degrees. The degrees focus on "depth" in a subject (the major) and require courses in a variety of other disciplines, creating "breadth" or what US universities often refer to as distribution requirements. The new model also encourages research, internships, and engagement with the world outside of the university. More information on the curriculum can be found here: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/study-with-us/undergraduate-courses/the-melbourne-curriculum>.

NOTE WELL THAT AT MELBOURNE, THE TERM 'COURSE' MEANS COURSE OF STUDY (Option), NOT SPECIFIC CLASSES. The specific classes are then called subjects.

Students can take subjects (classes) in almost any faculty (department) and must take 50 points per semester, which is equivalent to 36 CIT units. Each 12.5-point subject (class) is equivalent to 9 CIT units; although a student could request 12 units of credit if taking a Melbourne research class and doing at least 12 hours per week of research related activities for the class. If a student is seeking credit for a required Caltech class that is 12 CIT units, then he/she can request that amount of credit, which will require permission from his/her option and/or the instructor of the relevant Caltech course. If a student needs to take a 12 unit Caltech course or does a 12 unit research course, it is possible to earn more than 36 CIT units for the term. Students can receive option, credit, general credit or HSS credit for Melbourne.

Note that students are limited to one research course at Melbourne.

Note that even though Melbourne allows students to take less than 50 points, Caltech does not. All Caltech students must take exactly 50 points, which equals at least 36 Caltech units. Melbourne does not allow overloads.

Students are required to take 2 subjects (25 points) from the science or engineering department related to their major field of study or in an area for which they can get option elective credit or fulfill an option requirement. If a double-major, students can take one subject in each option or closely related field. The other two subjects can be in any course. When choosing humanities or social science subjects, students should only consider classes in levels 1 and 2, and be sure they have the appropriate background for such subjects.

There are 12 total teaching weeks, and each class requires about 120 hours of work, including lectures, practicals and outside work. There are exams at the end of the semester, and some classes do have midterms or other exams throughout the semester.

When applying to the Melbourne Scholars Program, students *nominate* 6 subjects (classes) to guarantee they are accepted into four of them. After students are selected into the Melbourne Scholars Program by Caltech and apply to the University of Melbourne, course advisors at Melbourne will then review the requested subjects and confirm that they are available and appropriate. Melbourne could request additional information such as subject outlines or syllabi from previous Caltech classes to make sure students have the appropriate background. Students are allowed to change or drop subjects during the orientation period or first couple of weeks *with the approval of the Director of Study Abroad, Lauren Stolper*. **Remember to choose subjects only from Semester 2.**

There are a number of faculties/department that SAEX students are not allowed to take classes in: Theatre, Film/TV, Media, Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences and Veterinary Science. Subjects in the Bachelor of Biomedicine course of study are not allowed, although similar subjects can sometimes be found in the science course of study. Study abroad students are also not allowed to take courses at the Victorian College of the Arts or Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

For a complete list of the departments at Melbourne, see the List of Faculties:
<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/az/faculties.html>.

Students can view the general faculty websites to gain a broader understanding of specific courses of study at Melbourne. SAEX students are allowed to take courses from different years and at different levels. When looking at the specific department page, go to "subject info" to see subjects (classes) listed by year. By clicking on each subject, students will be able to see a description, professor, prerequisites, etc. Students can also search for subjects by using the **University Handbook**, as described below.

Most degrees have subjects listed as "Breadth Subjects". These are classes that students not in that major can take to satisfy their "Breadth Requirements" – classes that Melbourne requires to ensure their students have a wide breadth of knowledge. They are not always at the intro level, so be sure to make note if there are any prerequisites.

Note: In some courses, Melbourne uses an "integrated approach" to teaching. This integrated approach means that certain courses of study (departments) do not separate the various aspects of the topic into specific subjects (classes). For example, Chemistry is taught in an integrated style – inorganic, organic and physical chemistry are combined in some courses. This means that it is necessary that students read the subject (class) description carefully and when possible request a syllabus to review in order to understand what topics will be covered.

Students do not receive credit for coursework abroad until they return to Caltech, have their coursework evaluated by Caltech faculty AND their transcript from Melbourne proves they have passed their subjects.

University Handbook: When choosing courses, students should look at subjects (classes) in the Handbook (course catalog): <http://handbook.unimelb.edu.au>, which is usually published by Nov 1 each year. The handbook gives a list of "Study Areas" from which students choose the most appropriate one that corresponds to their option, e.g. Sciences and Mathematics, Information Technology and Systems, etc. This will then go to a list of Undergraduate and Graduate Courses (as in, *course of study* which is equal to an option). If you scroll down, you will see all listed subjects in the Study Area. Be sure to click "Display All" to see the full selection of subjects. Clicking on the subject will allow you to view the description, prerequisites, level, etc. **There is also a link to the Timetable for each subject within the description.**

The other method of searching for subjects is to use the Quicksearch option at the top left of the Handbook homepage. You can search for keywords such as "biology" and all subjects with biology in the title or description of the subject will appear. Be sure to click on "display all" to see the full list.

Students are not allowed to take subjects that they are not prepared for, so be sure to check the prerequisites for each subject when looking into them.

Melbourne recently renamed all subjects and the corresponding class codes. For your reference, the first number in the sequence refers to the year or level of the subject:

Numbers 1-3 are undergraduate.

Number 4 is often the Honours year and could be UG (undergraduate) or PG (post-graduate).

Numbers 5-9 would indicate a post-graduate (graduate) level subject.

For example, HORT20012 is an undergraduate subject, year 2 and BTCH90005 is a graduate level subject because it has 9 as the first number.

Each subject lists a *Coordinator* and their email address. Students are encouraged to email the coordinator to request more information on topics covered, prerequisites and a syllabus.

Students are allowed to take subjects in the *Graduate Courses*, if they have the appropriate background. If unsure, students should email the subject coordinator, or talk with FASA. Yearlong subjects are generally not allowed, although if a required subject, students can ask the coordinator if it is possible to join the subject for just the second semester. Students are generally allowed to take honours level courses, except in BEM.

Make note of the subject names and codes, which must be listed in your proposed course list (e.g. GEOL30009 Advanced Field Geology). Make sure to get the new code, which begins with 4 letters followed by 5 numbers. The old 6-digit code might be listed in parenthesis, but is not needed.

There are also some 2-week long intensive subjects offered in December such as [Marine Phytoplankton of Australia](#). If interested, students should talk to FASA about coordinating such a subject. There would be extra fees involved, as they do not count toward the required 50-point/4 subject/36 Caltech unit minimum. Students could opt to participate in these courses, but would have to pay an extra fee and the number of corresponding CIT units is not guaranteed.

Timetable: Students must check their proposed course lists, or 'nominated subjects', on the Timetable to be sure there are no time conflicts. Students are not allowed to have a schedule with any time conflicts. When looking at subjects on the Timetable, be sure to read the notes carefully. For example, lectures are listed with an "L" and practicals are listed with a "P". There are "streams", which are repeats of the same class/lecture, and students can choose which one they would like to attend.

Math Option Students Note Well: Prof. Barry Simon, Executive Officer of Math, requires that Math option students consult with him during the application process regarding any Math Option (but not ACM) required courses, such as Math 108a. You must bring a full description of the proposed class with you. If one is not posted online by Melbourne, contact the instructor or advisor to obtain one. This does not apply to Applied Math students. All students can take one class by correspondence if they cannot find an equivalent class abroad that is approved for option requirement credit.

RESEARCH

Students are able to register for subjects titled "Research Project". These are opportunities to pursue research and receive credit. If interested, students should contact professors ahead of time in order to establish a relationship and discuss options for research topics. This subject culminates in a formal assessment such as a paper or presentation. There might be opportunities for doing paid research, but this has not been confirmed. It is also possible for students to volunteer in a lab. This also should be set up before the student arrives in Melbourne. Other questions about research should be discussed with the FASA office. Note again that students are limited to taking ONE research class at Melbourne for 9 to 12 Caltech units.